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Media Alert, 3/18/14

City of Huntington Beach and Orange County Coalition Teams with Home Depot in Response to Historic Drought

- *First event kicks off March 29 at Home Depot in Huntington Beach to educate residents about low-use water plants and landscaping*

Who: Outdoor water efficiency is crucial to preserve water supplies during this historic drought and to eliminate runoff which affects ocean water quality. The City of Huntington Beach, in partnership with the Orange County Stormwater Program, the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) and the UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) will launch the Orange County Garden Friendly Program with events at The Home Depot.

What: Since more than 40 percent of residential water is used outside the home, the Orange County Garden Friendly Program encourages Orange County residents to plant climate-appropriate and low water-use plants in outdoor spaces and gardens. The Home Depot will host events throughout the County where there will be plants identified with Garden Friendly stickers available for discounted prices and master gardeners to answer landscaping questions.

When: **Saturday, March 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
The Home Depot at 7100 Warner Avenue, Huntington Beach.

Contact: For more information visit www.OCGardenFriendly.org.

Background: As part of a holistic approach to using water more efficiently during the drought and for future generations, the *Overwatering Is Out* program and collaborators are hosting OC Garden Friendly events to eliminate overwatering by making low water use plants and irrigation tools more accessible to residents. Come out to one of the upcoming Orange County Garden Friendly events to help protect water quality by curbing runoff and to pick out some low water use plants for your garden.

Orange County Garden Friendly has created an extensive list of climate appropriate plants developed by UCCE. The list is a reference for residents of which plants are "garden friendly" for the Orange County climate, and are organized by garden category, including ground cover, shrubs, flowers and trees.

Low water use plants require different irrigation techniques and can be a part of a water efficient landscape. Rebates are available to residents for sprinklers, rain barrels and lawn turf removal to create a climate-appropriate landscape. More information is available at www.mwdoc.com/services/rebates.

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